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Arafat: Israeli fanatics provided bombs in attacks

DAVID MAKOVSKY

AN unholy conspiracy of Israeli "fanatics," who are members of a shadowy group of ex-IDF people called "OAS," and Moslem extremists were behind Sunday's suicide bombings, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat told foreign diplomats yesterday, according to diplomatic sources.

He calls the alleged group OAS, or Organisation l'Armee Secret, the acronym of a group of French military people in the 1960s who sought to thwart Charles de Gaulle as he embarked upon a peace policy with Algeria. Arafat is even known to have said last year, before Barak became foreign minister, that "Barak is one of the big bosses of the OAS."

human rights violations. There is also speculation that he may once again close down the Hamas-leaning newspaper in Gaza, *al-Waqt*.

Informed sources said Israeli security officials gave their Palestinian counterparts the names of people suspected of being part of a Hamas infrastructure. It is believed they also gave their alleged whereabouts, as well as possible safe houses.

Arafat said he was sure the OAS supplied the explosives, because of the sophistication of the bombs, which he claimed is beyond Palestinian capability and "not available anywhere in the Arab world."

Some of the diplomats who met with Arafat told him he should regard the suicide bombings as a personal affront, since the Islamic militants had defied a promise to him to cease attacks. Therefore, the diplomats urged, the militants should be disciplined.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset plenum yesterday he had given Arafat a list of operational demands.

When Barak was asked about this allegation, he dismissed it as nonsense, saying Arafat should take care of his extremists and Israel will take care of its own.

Barak urged the envoys to cable their countries to press Arafat to take a tougher stand against militants. He said if the Israelis do not have security, the peace process could be hurt.

"In consultation with security officials, we have formulated a list of operational demands, which I won't elaborate on, to be submitted to those responsible for security in the Palestinian Authority," Peres said. "For us, compliance with these demands will be a supreme test of their ability to uphold their commitment."

Arafat also told foreign diplomats that he would do all he could to track down killers, but that whenever he cracks down hard, he is faced with criticism from Scandinavian countries for

He noted that Arafat is more capable of cracking down on militants now that he is a democratically elected leader. Terje Larsen, UN coordinator for the territories who participated in the meeting with Barak, expressed his opposition to a prolonged closure.



A soldier and bystander apply mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a woman injured in yesterday's crash in Jerusalem when a car (rear) driven by an Arab-American jumped a curb and crashed into a crowd. The driver's body lies at left. (AP)

2 killed, 22 injured in J'lem crash

Police unsure if Arab-American driver deliberately drove into crowd

BILL HUTMAN and HERB KEINON

POLICE had still not determined by late last night if the Arab-American shot dead after he drove into a crowd at a Jerusalem bus stop yesterday - killing a woman and injuring 22 - did so intentionally or by accident.

Several people in the crowd, and apparently also soldiers and policemen at the scene, opened fire and killed Californian Ahmed Abdul Hamideh, 37, thinking he was a terrorist, police said.

A woman at the bus stop, just after the French Hill interchange on Ramallah Road that also serves as an army hitchhiking post, was pronounced dead at the scene by Magen David Adom medics. Her name was not released as of last night.

Emanuel, who suffered a cracked knee, said she did not bear any shots fired from the car. "I saw a dark car driving along the curb in our direction really fast, and thought to myself, 'even if he's going to Shilo, I'm not going to get in, because he's such a bad driver,'" said Barya Medad. "All of a sudden he made a quick turn to the right, and drove up onto the curb, running over the woman next to me and also knocking me down," said Medad, who was slightly injured. "People started screaming. Those that could moved away from the scene for fear it was a car bomb. Others were too injured to move. It was no accident... There is no way he could have made that turn but on purpose."

Police brass and municipal leaders said the situation was tense in the capital following Sunday's suicide bombing, making it that much more difficult to determine exactly what happened at the interchange. Fourteen people, all of them suffering slight injuries, were

rushed to Hadassah-University Hospital, Mount Scopus, just a few minutes away. A hospital spokesman said that most of them suffered injuries to their arms and legs. One person was admitted with gunshot wounds. For the second day in a row, the press rushed to the hospital and clamored around the beds of the

injured for an eyewitness account. Molly Emanuel, from a moshav near Jerusalem, said that she was waiting for a ride to Ofra, where she is doing her national service. "I was standing there," she said, "and saw somebody signal. I thought he was stopping, but then he stepped on the gas. He went up on the sidewalk and into us."

'Anyone might have done the same'

THE three civilians who opened fire at the driver of the car were brought in for questioning by police, and later released. The three are all yeshiva students in their early 20s.

"Anyone at the scene might have acted similarly," Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit said. "We should not judge their actions until the investigation is completed."

Mayor Ehud Olmert, who rushed to the scene after the "attack" was reported, said the situation was sensitive in the capital following Sunday's suicide bombing, putting many residents on edge.

"People [who opened fire] did not react hysterically," Olmert said. "They had the natural initial reaction to seeing a car with an Arab driver drive through a crowd and injure 18 people," he said. *Bill Hutman*

The incident occurred at about 3 p.m., and Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit announced on live radio that it was a terror attack. But that perception soon

PM: No limits on fight against terror

LIAT COLLINS

"WE will not halt the peace process, we will continue with it," Prime Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset plenum yesterday. "At the same time, we will take all appropriate means in order to strike at terrorists everywhere, both before and after they commit their criminal actions."

The House was extremely tense during the address, which came barely an hour after the incident in French Hill that at the time was believed to be a terror attack, and shortly after many MKs returned from the funeral of Jerusalem bus bomb victim Yonatan Barnea, son of *Yediot Aharanot* journalist Nahum.

After expressing condolences to the families of the victims of the two attacks Sunday, Peres repeated the country's commitment to sovereignty over Jerusalem. "Jerusalem, which has been, is, and will always remain the united capital of Israel, is today also united in its pain. It is possible to wound her, but no one will succeed in dividing her."

Peres accused Hamas of undermining the Palestinians' desire for peace. "They shoot at our citizens, but they harm the Palestinians' hope. They are responsible for the hatred, the killing, the poverty, and the closure." He stressed the need for the Palestinian Authority to act against extremist terror and called on foreign countries allowing fundraising for Hamas's so-called charity organizations to halt these activities.

"The Palestinian Authority must decide whether there is room in the Gaza Strip for paramilitary organizations that want to harm

IDF, police at odds over decision not to reimpose closure on Sunday

BILL HUTMAN, LIAT COLLINS, ANO ON LEVY

A CLOSURE was not imposed on Sunday, despite intelligence information that an attack was planned for that day, although not the double-suicide bombings that eventually did occur, Prime Minister Shimon Peres revealed yesterday. Police sources said the decision was taken by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, without consulting Peres, and despite the General Security Service believing a closure should be imposed.

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal is upset with Shabak for not bringing the matter before government leaders, the police sources said. Police believed that a closure would be imposed, after receiving an intelligence report from the GSS of the planned attack, giving specific details of what was planned.

Shahak recommended no closure be imposed. Peres's military secretary Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom, these sources said, then consulted with Shahak. Police Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz, GSS head Ami Ayalon, and Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabor, government coordinator in the territories, on Saturday night. Yatom relayed the various positions to Peres, who accepted the IDF recommendation against a closure.

Senior IDF sources, however, provide a different version of events. They said that after IDF intelligence received information

on the attack, it and Shahak recommended no closure be imposed. Peres's military secretary Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom, these sources said, then consulted with Shahak. Police Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz, GSS head Ami Ayalon, and Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabor, government coordinator in the territories, on Saturday night. Yatom relayed the various positions to Peres, who accepted the IDF recommendation against a closure.

However, it was decided to try and capture her and the vehicle rather than continue with the closure on Gaza, Peres said. Extending the closure on Judea and Samaria was not considered following the end of Id al-Fitr, he said. (Continued on Page 2)

Nine-year-old immigrant left orphaned by bombing

BATSHEVA TSUR and news agencies

VLADIMIR Kushnirov, 9, who was orphaned by Sunday's bus bombing in Jerusalem, buried his parents yesterday. After the funeral, the pale-faced boy drew a picture with color crayons. Explaining the drawing to a Channel 2 reporter, he said in halting Hebrew, "I am standing next to the grave of my parents and I am crying. And here I wrote that I am telling my father. 'Father, mother, don't leave me.'"

His parents, Anatoly and Jana, in their thirties, immigrated in April 1994. They left behind Vladimir and his four-month-old sibling. The Kushnirovs were on their way from their Katamon home to sign a contract for a new apartment in Ashkelon when the bomb went off. Yesterday the two children were being cared for by Jana's sister and parents, assisted by ministry social workers.

9 buried, Page 2, Profiles of immigrants killed, Page 4

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US pressing Arafat to do more

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration said yesterday that, after Sunday's bombings, it is awaiting the outcome of the Palestinian judicial processes before pronouncing judgment on the PA's performance against terrorism. "Things that are clearly optics aren't enough," a senior official said. "This is an issue that's going to have to work itself out in terms of a response by the President Yasser Arafat. The pressure is clearly on Arafat to address the concerns that were expressed." The US will "have to judge on the totality of the efforts" taken by the PA against the infrastructure of terrorist groups, he said, adding that the pressure the US is applying to Arafat is "nothing new." Asked whether the US is satisfied that the PA's roundup of Hamas officials was more than

SPORADICALLY chanting "Peres is the next in line," "Traitor, traitor," and "Enough of dreams, we want security," about 150 people gathered yesterday at the site of Sunday's massacre for a protest organized by Zo Artzenu.

Feiglin said the demonstration was a turning point in the lull of protests that has followed the Rabin assassination. "We are returning to the streets, to the intersections. We won't be violent, we were never violent, but we won't be silent either." Feiglin said that the Left tired to blame the Right for Rabin's assassination, "saying that his blood is on our hands. So if that's the case, on whose hands is the blood that was spilled yesterday. The respon-

HERB KEINON

sibility rests with the government which signed agreements with murderers." The rally was organized despite appeals by Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu to his followers not to protest. "We do not take orders from Netanyahu," said Shmuel Sackett, another one of the group's leaders. "We want to bring people back into the streets."

There were about as many police and border police as protesters on hand to ensure the demonstration did not spill into Jaffa Road. People visited the site of the attack throughout the day, added to the hundreds of memorial candles there, and - taking their cue from Rabin Square - wrote messages on a long white sheet that was hung on a fence. In a related development, Jerusalem Magistrate's Court rejected a petition by the lawyers

of Zo Artzenu heads Feiglin, Sackett, and Benny Elon to dismiss the sedition charges against them. Sefi Elon, lawyer for his brother, Benny, argued in earlier hearings that the charges be dropped because "this is not an indictment, but an editorial." The judges did, however, agree to a defense motion to remove from the indictment an attempt to connect Zo Artzenu's protests with the killing of a Palestinian during a protest at Beir El last summer.

Netanyahu's call for restraint meets some opposition

LIAT COLLINS

LIKUD leader Binyamin Netanyahu's call for restraint met with some opposition among his own MKs yesterday. In an address to the Likud faction before the plenum session, Netanyahu asked his MKs to refrain from heckling Prime Minister Shimon Peres during his statement to the nation. "These are days of mourning and grief. On a day on which we are burying our dead, I have asked our members not to enter the political fray,

and they have acted accordingly," Netanyahu said. Eliahu Ben-Elissar took exception to the self-imposed silence. "Peres, Interior Minister Haim Ramon, and other cabinet members are expressing their political views. Are we to stand silent and say not a word?" he asked. But Netanyahu repeated his call for a low-key response.

4,000 foreign workers needed if closure is extended

AN extended closure of the territories will necessitate bringing in another 4,000 foreign agricultural workers, Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tzur said yesterday. He said he has already received appeals from the heads of the agriculture associations that they be assured of workers, especially during harvest season. There are currently some 13,000 foreigners working in agriculture. As long as workers from the territories were allowed entry, this was sufficient. But should an extended closure be imposed, Tzur said, there will be no choice but to bring in more workers.

Poll shows Peres losing ground

Jerusalem Post Staff

AN opinion poll published yesterday showed Prime Minister Shimon Peres losing ground to Binyamin Netanyahu after the Sunday deaths of 27 people in two suicide bombings. The Dabaf poll of 501 Israelis for *Yediot Aharonot* showed Netanyahu narrowing Peres's lead in four days from 15 percentage points to three. The new poll showed 46% would vote for Peres, 43% for Netanyahu, and 5% for David Levy. Six percent had yet to decide or did not respond. Government spokesman Uri Dromi called the plunge only tem-

porary, telling Reuters: "I wouldn't hasten to draw any conclusions from an immediate poll." Another veteran pollster said it was too early to conduct a poll unburdened by the emotions of the moment. "It's an immediate response that doesn't reflect the long-range situation. It's a knee-jerk reaction, anger, a feeling something has to be done - 'If these guys can't guarantee, then bring in somebody else,'" Dromi said. "In the long range I think it will change again because people will ask themselves seriously what is the alternative."

Shohat: No money left for Internal Security Ministry

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE Ministry of Internal Security's demand for an additional NIS 420 million to finance 2,426 jobs can only be met by transferring funds from the Defense Ministry, aides to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said today. Treasury sources said that over the past three to four years, the police budget has grown by 36 percent and its personnel has expanded by 25%, including 5,000 new jobs, 1,100 of them army regulars.

Responding to Internal Security Minister Moshe Shohat's requests, Shohat said last week he thought the government gave "an appropriate" financial reply to the challenges posed by terrorism, road safety, and the Oslo process. Finance Ministry officials say the Internal Security Ministry can redistribute the resources already at its disposal, rather than ask for an additional budget, especially considering that it had already been granted an additional NIS 200m. earlier this year.

Bill would give minimum sentence for sex crime

THE Knesset Law Committee yesterday approved for first reading a bill to impose a minimum sentence for sex crimes. The minimum will be one-fourth of the maximum

sentence for each crime. The bill will apply only to rape and to sexual abuse by parents or those in a position of trust, such as teachers. Evelyn Gordon



ISRAEL EXPORT INSTITUTE

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Tel Aviv, February 28-29, 1996

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:30 - 9:00 Registration

9:00 - 9:30 Welcome and opening: Mr. Amir Hayek, Director General, Israel Export Institute
Mr. Gledeon Shurr, International Affairs and External Relations, Bank of Israel

Morning Session

9:30 - 10:15 Keynote Address by Hon. Stephen Solaz, Chairman of the Central Asia-American Enterprise Fund: "Business Investment opportunities in the Central Asia Republic"

10:15 - 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 - 13:30 Presentations by representatives of:

The European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD), Mr. Yoav Kurtzbard, Banker - Agro-Business Dept.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) Mr. Nessim Ezekiel, Director Corporate Planning Dept. and a team of consultants

The Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC) Mr. Sy Rotter, Co-Financing Consultant

"The possibilities of Co-Financing with Israeli Entrepreneurs and Commercial Banks in the private sector".

13:30 - 14:45 Luncheon Speaker Mr. Amir Makov - Chairman - Israel Export Institute

15:00 - 17:00 Afternoon Sessions Successful business experiences financed by the EBRD.

Bezeq's Telecommunications project in Hungary Ioav Krill - President

Health-care project in Baku - Azarbidjan Mr. Yaacov Vitkovsky, CPA - Inter Experts Israel Ltd.

17:00 - 18:30 Cocktails provided by Bank Leumi Le-Israel

Moderated by: Mr. Yair Ofek - Deputy Director General - Israel Export Institute

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Moderated by: Mr. Raphy Merom, Deputy Director, International Affairs - Bank of Israel

Morning Sessions

Presentations by representatives of: The World Bank (IBRD-IDA) Mr. Ali Khadr, Deputy Resident Representative in Jerusalem

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Mr. Andres Bajuk - Special Representative in Europe Mr. Sergio Orce - Senior Advisor

European Investment Bank (EIB) Ms. Ilana Karp-Lazar - Manager International Division Bank Leumi

Coffee break

10:15 - 10:45 The Role of Trade Risks Insurance Corporations in the Project Financing Market

10:45 - 11:45 Mr. Srihal M. Perera, MIGA Mr. Doron Klausner, Director General - IFTRIC Successful business experiences Ornat's project in the Philippines Mr. Patrick Francols - V.P Project Finance

Baitman Eng. Project in Russia Mr. Shukl Raz - Deputy Director General

13:30 - 14:35 Luncheon Speaker Dr. Thomas Geer, Corporate Planning Director Krupp-Hoesch Group of Companies

14:35 - 16:00 Afternoon Sessions Panel discussion: "The role of Institutional Investors in Development Funding"

Moderator: Dr. Ehud Kaufman, President B.H. Consultants Mr. Jean Michel Etienne - Dep. Director, Int. Econ Affairs, Ministry of Public Works - France

Coffee break

16:00 - 16:15 Concluding comments - Panel with the participation of representatives of the Bank of Israel, Israel Export Institute, Private Banks, IFTRIC and guests.

16:15 - 18:00 Moderator: Prof. Haim Ben Shahar, President - Ben Shahar Associates

JDC-Israel ESHEL

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Mr. Arnon Mantver, Director, JDC-Israel
Dr. Zvi Feine, Chairman, JDC-Eshel
Dr. Yitzhak Brick, Director-General, JDC-Eshel

Plenary Discussions:

Social trends and their influence on social services - Prof. Yaakov Kop, Director, Center for Social Policy Studies
Problems and challenges in geriatric services - Prof. Mark Klarfeld, Head, Geriatric Dept., Health Ministry
Problems in answering the changing needs of the elderly - Jenny Brodsky, Director, Research Program on Aging, JDC-Brookdale
Eshel's sixth five-year plan - Dror Rotem, Director, Planning and Research, JDC-Eshel

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7 new immigrants killed in Sunday's bomb attacks

SEVEN new immigrants were killed in Sunday's terrorist blast in Jerusalem, the Absorption Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The ministry set up emergency headquarters under director-general Efraim Cohen and sent out Russian-speaking teams to help the families of the victims.

This brings to 30 the number of new immigrants killed in terrorist activities in the past five years, he said.

In addition, some 20 of those injured on Sunday also appear to be new immigrants, the spokesman said. The Russian-speaking teams were combing all the hospitals yesterday to establish the exact number and to provide assistance, he said.

The fatalities include Anatoly

BATSHEVA TSUR

and Jana Kushnirov, in their thirties, who immigrated in April 1994. They leave behind two children, aged nine and four months.

Another victim, Boris Sharpolinsky, 55, arrived in Israel only eight months ago. He had no relatives here.

Other immigrants killed on Sunday include Swietlana Gelezniak, 33, who made aliya in June 1991 and is survived by her husband and a small son; Yitzhak Yakhnis, 54, who moved here four years and leaves behind a wife and daughter; Semion Trakashvili, 64, three years in the country, who is survived by his wife and son; and Cpl. Iliya Nimotin, 19.

Nimotin's mother is a widow

and he was her only son.

"Unfortunately, in all the terror blasts, the number of immigrants is disproportionately high because they constitute a large percentage of the passengers who use public transport," Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban said yesterday.

Paradoxically, Tzaban said, the attacks have created "a kind of blood bond between these immigrants and this country. Of course we would have wanted a different type of bond - but this is impossible until we achieve peace and succeed in fully counteracting terrorism," Tzaban said.

He called on the public to open their hearts to the victims who usually do not have many relatives and friends to help them in their time of pain.



Pupils comfort each other at Beit Hinuch High School in the capital's Katamonim neighborhood.

(Brian Heald/1)

Deaths of three classmates leave Jerusalem high school in shock

AT the entrance to Beit Hinuch High School in Jerusalem, there is a memorial board with brass plaques bearing the names of graduates killed in terrorist attacks or military action.

There are 67 names on the board. Now there will be three more.

Three graduates of the school - 20-year-old Yonatan Barnea, 19-year-old Moshe Reuven and 19-year-old Merav Nahum - died in Sunday's Jerusalem bus bombing.

Yesterday, three memorial candles burned on a table draped in black at the school. "Beit Hinuch announces with great sorrow the falling of its graduates," a poster said.

"Merav, Yoni and Moshe were

murdered by evil people whose intention was only to murder Jews and kill the peace."

"I don't think there is a single person in this school who didn't know at least one of the fallen," said 15-year-old Ariel Margalit, who was in Barnea's scouts group. "The whole school is in mourning."

Students at Beit Hinuch have been through the mourning process before. One graduate was killed in a suicide bombing last year. Another was killed in an attack in downtown Jerusalem in October 1994. There have been other recent deaths in Lebanon, and in an army training accident.

The three from Beit Hinuch who died Sunday were doing their army service. Nahum had been

drafted just three months ago. A pretty girl with dark, curly hair and dark eyes, "she was always bappy and willing to help anyone," said Michal Porat, a Bible and history teacher.

Reuven, teachers said, was a quiet boy, and an excellent student. When he entered high school, he insisted on taking an advanced physics class, over the objections of his teachers and counselors.

But the student teachers remembered best was Barnea - always a leader, always doing something that drew attention.

"You couldn't help outcrying him," said Porat. "He had something to say about everything. In many things, he was the linchpin of the class."

In the final year of high school, Barnea came up with the idea for a class play based on the camp classic, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. For a Purim shpiel, he got the class to dress up as characters from *Crime and Punishment*.

For a class videotape, Barnea shaved his head, leaving only the letters that stood for his class year. Barnea's father was Nahum Barnea, a well-known columnist for *Yediot Aharanot*.

The newspaper said yesterday that Nahum Barnea had gone to the scene of the explosion before knowing his son was among the victims. When newspaper editors learned that his son had been identified, they got him away from the site on a pretext, then broke the news. (AP)

'Israel, not peace process, bombers' target'

"THIS isn't a war on peace, but an attempt to undermine the country," President Ezer Weizman said yesterday, referring to Sunday's suicide bombings.

"But our country is strong and must be able to encourage aliya so that we will have more Jews. I can't promise that there won't be people crying and that there won't be sadness, but at the same time we must look at ourselves and see how much we've accomplished as a country."

Weizman was speaking with reporters following a visit to Barzilai hospital, where 11 of those wounded in the bomb blast in Ashkelon are hospitalized, one moderately and 10 lightly.

The president said he was pleased by the way the country's leaders responded to the terror attacks, specifically, that they didn't try to make political capital out of them.

As regards the Palestinians, Weizman said: "If they don't take themselves in hand and don't find solutions, the situation will get worse also from our responses."

The president said that in the coming month he intends to visit the homes of each of the 25 victims of Sunday's attacks. (Ilim)

NEWSLINE

with DR. BERNIE STEIN

Dr. Bernie Stein is chief psychologist, Ministry of Education

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein ordered that yesterday's first class at schools throughout the country be dedicated to discussion about the Jerusalem and Ashkelon bombings. How important are these discussions?

They are extremely important. It's a national tragedy, and I think it's important that the minister sends a message to the whole school system that it's not back to work as usual when such a tragedy occurs. The discussions give kids a chance to express their feelings, a sort of framework for mourning and to let them know that it's okay to feel fear and anxiety.

How are teachers prepared before confronting pupils?

Unfortunately, we've had a lot of experience. We have 240 psychological and counseling service clinics throughout the country, and we have six regional crisis teams ready to deal with any problem on a personal or national scale. Part of the preparation is working with teachers and schools, and this has been going on since the Yom Kippur War.

Considering we live in such a stressful and turbulent country, do you think enough is being done?

We have many different projects - that help confront any problem that may arise. We've created a system that enables kids and teachers to talk freely. We are a very psychological minded society.

What sort of warning signals should parents look out for if they feel their kids are still traumatized?

The most important thing is that parents allow their children to express their feelings. If they see a child is unusually withdrawn or over anxious, they should immediately consult with a professional psychologist. The most important thing is not to ignore the warning signs. (Margarit Dudkevitch)

Students at New Jersey school mourn classmate

Students at the Frisch School in Paramus, New Jersey, filed into an assembly yesterday to talk about Sara Duker, class of 1991, who was killed Sunday along with her fiancé, Matthew Eisenfeld, in the Jerusalem bus bombing.

In what was called a terrible coincidence, it was the second time in a year that students and faculty at the yeshiva gathered to

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

mourn. Alisa Flatow, class of 1992, was killed in the bus bombing near Kfar Darom last April 9.

"The message comes home to our kids that we are vulnerable, and that we are vulnerable because of our ideals," said Rabbi Saul Zucker, the assistant principal.

There are 100 seniors at the school, and more than half are expected to spend next year in Israel.

"The only way not to die of violence is to live the life of a recluse," said principal Rabbi Menachem Meier. "The question is, how do people deal with fear? No one wants to grant [terrorists] a victory by being paralyzed by fear."

He cautioned the students that it is wrong for this incident to be exploited for political purposes.

Fidgeting in their seats and wringing their hands, a number of seniors said they are frightened, but still intend to spend next year in Israel.

"I'm scared now, especially because it is so close to home," said Avigail Meier, the principal's daughter, for whom Sara once babysat. "You think for a minute that maybe you're making a mistake, but I'm still going to go."

BATSHEVA TSUR

JUST a year ago, Lilia and Michael Yerigin left their home in Donyensk in Ukraine with a group of pupils coming to study on Youth Aliyah's Na'aleh-16 program. Early this morning, their mother Yevgenia was due to arrive alone - to attend Michael's funeral.

Michael, 16, was the youngest victim of Sunday's terrorist attack.

"Why do all these calamities keep hitting me?" a pale Lilia, 17, asked again and again. Her friends at Jerusalem's Goldstein Youth Village just continued to hug her or hold her hand.

On Friday, Michael had come to Goldstein to spend the weekend with his sister. Because he was younger, he had been sent with a group to Kibbutz Ma'abarot.

As he and Lilia were walking in the neighborhood, Lilia pointed out the No. 18 bus to him. "You don't usually take it, but it goes directly to the central bus station," she said. Early on Sunday morning, Michael took her advice.

When news of the attack

reached Goldstein, Lilia knew immediately. Michael's counselor was contacted and went to the Abu Kabir forensic institute, where he identified the body.

The news had to be relayed to Yevgenia in Dooyensk. The local Jewish Agency emissary was out of town. Frantic arrangements were made by the Jewish Agency to contact a doctor to go to her house. He told Yevgenia her son was injured. Only later, once the doctor was there, did Lilia call her mother.

Yevgenia, who lost her husband to a heart attack only two months ago, was accompanied by a Jewish Agency worker on her flight to Israel.

Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, who visited Lilia yesterday, said her mother would receive an apartment. Meanwhile, during shiva, she will stay in Lilia's room.

"If you have any requests, just ask. From now on, we will be your family," Burg promised Lilia, who is in the process of becoming a citizen.

Michael will be buried at noon today.

Tracing Missing People

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Royals

Buchanan, Forbes look to Arizona; Dole courts Bush

ATLANTA (AP) — With Republican presidential hopefuls making a final push to sway voters in Arizona, Pat Buchanan defended his campaign and its supporters yesterday, saying they were not extremists, but "good Americans."

Bob Dole shrugged off a major staff shakeup, saying, "I want to start winning," and used a speech at a suburban Atlanta business center to assail Bill Clinton's foreign policy.

"President Clinton doesn't have the foggiest notion of how to deal with our enemies. Castro is not our friend," Dole said in Georgia.

Steve Forbes, hoping to repeat his primary victory in Delaware on Saturday, focused on Arizona, where he said, "I think we will make an excellent showing."

However, Forbes said, "I'm not going to make any predictions. We are attracting more and more support as we speak. We'll just take it from there."

Dole, after playing the endorsement game with a pilgrimage in Arizona to the home of Republican patriarch Barry Goldwater and courting former President Bush, used the weekend to downplay two civilian planes by Cuba to ridicule Clinton's foreign policy.

"We need someone who will stand up to Castro, someone who will tighten the strings on Castro, someone to drive Castro out," he told a sparsely attended rally.

He was also asked about morale in his campaign in light of a major new staff shakeup that saw him fire his pollster and demote his chief strategist.

"It's 110 percent," he declared. "I think we need to make a few changes. They have been made and we're moving on." He added, "I want to start winning."

Buchanan, in morning interviews, dismissed his Republican opponents, saying, "They sound

like Bill Clinton."

On the heels of campaigning in conservative churches and at a gun show in Arizona over the weekend, Buchanan dismissed suggestions he is attracting extremists.

"These are good Americans. They want to participate. All we're saying is open the door, we want to come in."

Arizona is the big prize among the three states holding primaries today, with 39 delegates up for grabs — the most so far in this year's primary schedule.

Races are also being held today in North Dakota and South Dakota, followed by a "first-in-the-South" contest in South Carolina on Saturday.

The primaries are to select delegates who will choose a presidential candidate at the Republican National Convention in San Diego in August.

Dole, the Senate majority leader, trying to overcome two straight losses in New Hampshire and Delaware, disclosed that he had talked to Bush soon after the New Hampshire vote.

Asked if he expected an endorsement, Dole said, "Well, it would be nice. I don't know. It's above my pay grade."

Dole said he told Bush: "As soon as we get out of these states where Forbes has spent so heavily, I think we're all right. I just sort of gave him an update." Dole identified those states as Iowa, New Hampshire, Arizona, South Dakota and South Carolina.

Georgia's primary, which the Dole campaign views as one of his better prospects in the South, is March 5. Dole was to visit a McDonnell Douglas plant in Macon and a veterans rally in Columbus later in the day.

Georgia might give Dole a better shot than South Carolina, where the Christian conservative movement has a stronger hold.



Voters in Freetown, Sierra Leone wait in lines throughout the day at a school compound to cast their ballots in the country's first democratic election in more than a decade. (AP)

Moslems, Croats return to suburb, Serbs leave

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — Moslems and Croats began moving back into a Sarajevo suburb they fled four years ago and a Serb exodus continued yesterday, marking the goal of a multi-ethnic Bosnia promised by the Dayton plan.

ATO peacekeepers said plans for a huge convoy including Serb military trucks to help Serbs leave areas due to be transferred to Moslem-Croat rule had dissolved in chaos.

Panicky Serb civilians clamored for places on the 20 Serb army trucks which turned up in one suburb, Ilijas, due to come under Bosnian government control on Thursday.

Bosnian Serbs had promised at least 200 vehicles would be involved in a convoy escorted by peacekeepers from the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR).

"(NATO) was ready to go...they were ready to escort vehicles but apparently the VRS (Bosnian Serb army) was not," said Major Thomas Moyer, a NATO spokesman in Sarajevo.

"It was total chaos and it showed a lack of leadership and organization on the side of the VRS to get things moving in the right direction."

Permission for the military evacuation was granted by the NATO commander in Bosnia, Admiral Leighton Smith, when it became clear that tens of thousands of Serbs in the five suburbs were desperate to flee but lacked transport.

In the suburb of Vogosca, newly transferred from Serb to Moslem-Croat control, some of the few remaining Serbs were waiting on street corners for Serb army trucks to evacuate them as the first bus from Sarajevo to Vogosca in 46 months pulled up yesterday.

It was carrying Moslems and Croats who fled Serb ethnic cleansing in Vogosca nearly four years ago and were trickling back to reclaim their old homes.

Among the returnees was 42-year-old Suada Zulic, who stepped off and came face-to-face with a former Serb neighbor.

"Sweet sister, how's it going," said the Serb woman.

"My brother got killed, what can I tell you," Suada replied before hurrying away on foot.

Krzysztof Janowski, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), accused both Moslem-Croat Federation police and hardline Serb leaders of encouraging the Serb exodus by fanning panic in the five suburbs due to come under the control of the Moslem-Croat federation by March 20.

Clinton orders retaliation against Cuba

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration moved yesterday to punish Fidel Castro for the downing of two civilian US aircraft, pledging to impose "a price for outrageous behavior."

The president's broad response to Saturday's incident included measures to target Cuban aviation, including restrictions on US air travel to Cuba, said a senior administration official.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the sanction was part of a series of economic, diplomatic and political steps against Castro.

Clinton also was expected to demand reparations from Cuba for the families of the downed pilots, and was warning up to a bill in Congress to punish companies that do business with Cuba, the official said.

The president was expected to drop his objections to the bill, with some qualifications.

Clinton was to unveil his plans at an appearance in the White House briefing room later in the day.

Press secretary Mike McCurry, briefing reporters before the president's announcement, said Clinton "approved a series of steps that the United States will pursue with the international community and unilaterally that we believe will make it clear that there's a price for outrageous behavior."

Clinton's options were few. Military action was not under consideration, aides said, and the current economic embargo has few loopholes for Clinton to close.

Clinton made the decision after a 75-minute meeting with his foreign policy team. They were considering tougher restrictions on travel, communications and some financial transactions that Clinton had eased last fall.

US Air Force F-16 fighters have been on precautionary alert in south Florida since Saturday, Defense Secretary William Perry said yesterday.

"We are on alert," Perry told reporters at the Pentagon. "We have an alert status in southern Florida. But that is just a simple, routine precaution." He said US warplanes had not increased flights in the region.

Perry echoed criticism by other US officials against Cuba over the shooting down by a MiG-29 fighter jet of two small planes flown by Cuban exiles. He said they were in international waters and the Cuban pilot knew they were unarmed.

Cuba has admitted to downing the aircraft but said they were within its airspace.

"We have from the beginning [since the incident] placed F-16s in southern Florida on alert, and they continue to be on alert. We have not been increasing air sorties," Perry said in response to questions from reporters at a briefing on another matter.

Perry said two US Navy guided-missile warships, the cruiser Mississippi and frigate John Hall, were also in waters between the United States and Cuba, helping the Coast Guard search for any survivors of the incidents.

"As you know, no survivors have been found, and the commandant of the Coast Guard [Admiral Robert Kramek] will make the decision as to when to conclude this search," Perry said.

"The actions that the Cubans took was outrageous. There was no justification for it," he told reporters.

"It was not only that these airplanes were in international air space, and it was not only that they were civilian and unarmed aircraft, but the pilot who shot them down knew they were unarmed and knew they were civilian. There was no excuse for that action."

Major struggles to head off humiliation

LONDON (Reuters) — Prime Minister John Major's government fought yesterday to head off a humiliating parliamentary defeat by accepting stinging criticisms made by a senior judge about arms sales to Iraq before the Gulf War.

Trade Secretary Ian Lang announced to parliament a series of reforms aimed at allaying concerns of a handful of members of the ruling Conservative Party who have threatened to withhold their support from Major, who has a majority of just two.

"Mistakes were made. There are lessons to be learned," Lang said in a speech opening a debate on the report by senior judge Sir Richard Scott, released 10 days ago, which attacked the government's conduct in the 1980s.

Defeat in the vote late last night would not bring down Major's battered government, which after 17 years in office trails the Labor opposition to opinion polls by more than 20 percentage points.

If he loses, Major would call a vote of confidence today or tomorrow, which all parties expect him to survive.

But defeat, or a slim victory, would expose Major's fragile hold on power and fan speculation that he might have to hold the next general election well before the May 1997 deadline.

Lang told a noisy House of Commons (lower house) that the government accepted Scott's criticism about export controls and licensing procedures for arms sales and would consult widely on how to reform them.

The government also accepted the need to improve the distribution of intelligence material and would be willing to cooperate with a parliamentary committee examining the question of ministerial accountability.

But Lang stood firm in refusing to acknowledge ministers had conspired in the sale of arms-making equipment to Iraq or had tried to cover up evidence that may have led to three businessmen being wrongfully jailed.

Shuttle Columbia loses satellite in space

HOUSTON (AP) — A half-ton metal satellite and its 19-km leash snaked through orbit yesterday free of shuttle Columbia after breaking loose without warning and drifting into space.

The electricity-generating experiment ended abruptly, five hours after it began, with an urgent message from astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman.

"The tether has broken at the boom! The tether has broken! It is going away from us!" he told Mission Control.

Ground controllers verified after a few anxious moments that the satellite and its 19.5 km of dangling cord, resembling a long, spiraling french fry, posed no danger to the seven astronauts.

Although relieved the crew was safe, American and Italian researchers who had poured years into the tethered satellite system were crushed.

"There is intense disappointment," NASA mission scientist Noble Stone said yesterday.

No evasive action was needed by the shuttle pilots. The satellite and tether were more than 29 km away from Columbia within minutes after the break and hundreds of miles away within hours.

The slender cord, one-tenth of an inch thick and resembling a boot lace, was supposed to be unreeled to a distance of 20.5 km. It was nearly to that point when the break occurred inside a 12-meter tower in the shuttle cargo bay.

If the cord had snapped higher up, the portion remaining attached to Columbia might have gone out of control and possibly even wrapped around the shuttle.

Astronauts later said the tether appeared frayed and stripped and noted that its nylon and Teflon outer coating looked to be charred and melted.

NASA refused to speculate on what might have gone wrong but promised to find out.

Royals are on IRA hit list

LONDON (AP) — Soldiers with heavy machine guns have replaced ceremonial, red-uniformed sentries on guard outside royal residences amid reports the queen and her family are IRA targets.

As government officials prepared to meet with the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party for the first time since the end of the IRA cease-fire, London newspapers yesterday printed pictures of the weekend changing of the guard.

Sentries wearing traditional dress uniform, armed with bayonets, standing to attention in sentry boxes and much photographed by tourists are out.

In their place at Buckingham Palace and St. James' Palace in London and Windsor Castle 30 km west of the capital are watchful soldiers in camouflage fatigues with SA 80 machine guns.

The Belfast meeting yesterday was the first time government and Sinn Fein have met face-to-face since the IRA broke its 17-month cease-fire with a truck bomb on Feb. 9. The bomb in London's Docklands business district killed two people.

After the bombing, Britain and Ireland barred senior officials from the two governments meeting with Sinn Fein but ruled that meetings between lower-ranking government officials and Sinn Fein could continue.

Deputy leader Martin McGuinness said the meeting, called at Sinn Fein's request, was to "examine how the (Northern Ireland) peace process can be rebuilt."

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Interest rates remain unchanged

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



"THERE'S no change in monetary policy and interest rate," said Eran Goren, managing director at Zannex Securities Ltd. "Everybody's waiting for the next market mover, and that's the results."

The central bank left the rate at which it lends to banks unchanged at 14 percent. Most analysts expected no change. The money supply rose a lower-than-expected 1.1 percent in January from December.

The most active issue was Nice Systems Ltd., a Tel Aviv maker of voice recording and retrieval systems, which was up 5 percent on NIS 5.25 million of shares traded. It had traded up as much as 6 percent. The company's American Depository receipts traded in New York, each representing one share traded here, touched a lifetime high Friday of 14% and closed at 14%. They were down 1/4 yesterday at 13%. The company went public in January selling two million shares at 10.

The two-sided index was at 210.01, up 0.16 percent, preliminary figures show. The Maof Index was at 218.54, up 0.07 percent.

A total of NIS 1.4 billion of shares traded on the Tel Aviv Stock exchange. Advancing shares outpaced decliners about 3 to 2.

"We've been meeting with managements," and indications are results will be "in line with expectations", Goren said, adding that "the overall picture for earnings is positive."

Goren is watching, for example, for results from two major publicly quoted insurance companies here, the Migdal unit of Africa Israel Investments Ltd. and the Clal group's Clal Insurance Division.

There's been a "car-theft epidemic" here, Goren said. "Clal is more susceptible because it is more involved" in that sort of insurance while Migdal concentrates on life policies.

IDB Holdings, which has financial-services interests, was up 1 percent.

Koor Industries Ltd., Israel's largest company, eased 0.75 percent. The company's ADR's were off 1/4 yesterday at 19%.

Koor subsidiary Tadiran Ltd., with interests in consumer appliances, telecommunications and defense contracting, finished 0.25 percent ahead. Its shares traded in New York were off 1/4 at 24%.

Eloco Holdings rose 1.5 percent. "We recommended the stock at 95 shekels," Goren said. "Now it's 135, and we think there's still mileage in it because the management is superb."

Israel Corp., "after a long spell of boring sentiment toward it" may be "gaining some momentum," Goren said. Israel Corp gained 1 percent while Israel Chemicals closed unchanged.

Bezeq added 0.75 percent. The state-controlled phone company is due to report results today. (Bloomberg)

Key Representative Rates table with columns for instrument, rate, and change.

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market moves table listing various indices and their changes.

Other stock market indexes

Table listing various international stock market indexes.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table listing Israeli stocks traded in New York.

NYSE AMEX

Table listing NYSE AMEX stock prices and changes.

NYSE MONEY MARKETS

Table listing NYSE Money Market rates.

Dollar rates (US)

Table listing dollar rates for various currencies.

Labor rates

Table listing labor rates for different categories.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Text block providing contact information for CommStock Trading Ltd.

US commodities

Table listing US commodity prices.

Spot market metals (US)

Table listing spot market metal prices.

New York metal futures

Table listing New York metal futures prices.

London metal futures

Table listing London metal futures prices.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading / Two-sided trading

Main Tel Aviv Stock Market table with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table listing international stock prices for various countries.

FTSE falls 36 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Political worries dominated a thin Monday session with shares closing sharply lower as the market held its breath ahead of a crucial parliament vote tonight. The FTSE 100 index closed down 36.1 points to 3704.2.

FRANKFURT - German shares edged lower today, dragged down by weaker Bunds. Dealers say on clear trend in evidence. Debt market volatility likely to dictate share direction in short-term. Volumes relatively low. DAX index seen struggling to reach 2,450 level again. The 30-share DAX index closed down 9.44 points at 2,442.34. In post-bourse trade the DAX index stood at 2,438.73.

PARIS - French shares tracked weaker Wall Street stocks and bond prices to end lower, one trader said the house's CAC-40 index could drift back to as low as 1,925-1,930 points for a consolidation before resuming an upward trend. The CAC-40 index closed down 15.96 points or 0.81 percent to 1,960.93.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended a volatile session virtually unchanged after gaining support late in the day from the firming tendency in the dollar and a recovery in Swiss government bond futures, hot prices stayed below their intra-day highs. The All-share SPI index rose 0.7% points to end at 2,144.72.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks broke a seven-day losing streak and edged moderately up on Monday. But overall, trade was quiet as investors remained on the sidelines because of the approach of the month-end and uncertainty about Japan's scheme to wind up its debt-laden mortgage firms. The 225-share Nikkei average ended up 179.89 points, or 0.89 percent, at 20,480.27.

HONG KONG - Hoog Kong stocks closed Monday 1.5% lower, pressured by a one-sided recovery by futures and last minute jitters ahead of HSBC's results announcement. The blue-chip Hang Seng index plunged 179.99 points to end at 11,210.42.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market crawled just higher by the close on Monday after a day of slow trading with no positive leads to ignite investor interest ahead of the national poll on March 2. The All Ordinaries index closed 1.9 points higher at 2,266.1.

JOHANNESBURG - South African shares closed moderately better on Moody, with golds leading the way on talk of a recovery in the bullion price and industrial finding support from late in the day from the firming tendency in the dollar and a recovery in Swiss government bond futures, hot prices stayed below their intra-day highs. The All-share SPI index rose 0.7% points to end at 2,144.72.

Stocks close down 65 points WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks slid lower yesterday as interest rates rose on bonds and investors grew leery of what surprises might emerge from a slew of new economic reports this week.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

Table listing currency cross rates for various currencies.

Compromise reached on surrogacy bill

Law doesn't allow carrying a baby to make money

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday approved a compromise bill to legalize surrogacy motherhood. The bill will not completely please either the religious community or would-be parents who had taken their case to the High Court of Justice.

On March 6, the High Court's extension of existing regulations barring surrogate motherhood arrangements will expire. Health Minister Ephraim Seoh expressed satisfaction with the compromise, adding that it would be brought for second and third reading next week.

Prof. Joseph Schenkar, a member of the Aloni Commission on Surrogacy whose minority opinion formed the basis of the compromise, said the bill "is restrictive, and will probably allow no more than 10 such births a year."

Those who petitioned the High Court have said they would prefer no law at all, so that the number of potential surrogate mothers would not be too small to make surrogacy impossible.

According to the compromise, the commissioning father must be the supplier of the sperm that fertilizes the ovum; the egg must come either from the commissioning mother or from a donor who is not the surrogate mother. Therefore, the baby can be produced only by *in-vitro* fertilization.

Another section of the bill de-

clares that the surrogate mother must be unmarried - unless an approval committee agrees "in special cases" to allow a married woman. Religious lobbyists had insisted that the sperm be supplied only by the commissioning father, but they also opposed allowing a married woman to serve as surrogate mother.

Other changes made to the original bill would allow the surrogate mother to change her mind and ask to keep the baby; this request would be decided upon in court.

Scheokar said the bill will make Israel's surrogacy law "unique in the world," as it bars commercialization (carrying the baby to make money; only the surrogate's expenses and lost time will be covered). In addition, the import of surrogates will be prohibited, as the woman who bears the child must be an Israeli resident and of the same religion as the commissioning mother; if all the parties involved are not Jewish, the seven-member surrogacy committee would have the authority to make an exception.

Surrogacy arrangements, according to the bill, will be supervised by a committee comprised of two gynecologists/obstetricians; one internal-medicine specialist; a clinical psychologist; a social worker; a public representative who is a lawyer; and a clergyman (of the same religion as the parties involved).



Tamar David, a soldier wounded in Sunday's suicide bomb attack in Ashkelon, gets a helping hand from her commanding officer. (IDF Spokesman)

Haggai Amir, Adani deny they conspired to murder

RAINE MARCUS

PRIME minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, his brother, Haggai, and Dror Adani denied charges of conspiracy to murder in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Adani, through his lawyer Zion Amir, also denied plotting to kill Palestinians. However he pleaded guilty to passing on an Uzi submachine gun to Yigal Amir, but said he gave it to him for safekeeping only.

Zion Amir also demanded that Adani be transferred from Shata prison to a lock up in the central district, arguing that his incarceration 150 kilometers away made

meeting his client very difficult. He said he would refuse to represent him if police and Prisons Service authorities did not transfer him to a nearer prison.

Haggai Amir pleaded guilty to possessing weapons and manufacturing ammunition. Shortly after the assassination, a large cache of ammunition and explosives was found at the family's Herzliya home.

His lawyer, Moshe Meroz, said that Haggai Amir only learned of his brother's plans to kill Rabin after the assassination. Meroz

also claimed that statements given by his client to police and the GSS were made under "extreme pressure." He was subjected to sleep deprivation and kept in a meter-square cell, with his hands bound. Under these conditions, said Meroz, he broke down and confessed to crimes he did not commit. The trial will continue on April 17.

Meanwhile Yigal Amir's lawyer, Shmuel Fleishman, has petitioned the Tel Aviv District Court to allow him to again summon 10 prosecution witnesses who testified against his client before he began representing him.

2 soldiers lightly hurt in zone

DAVID RUDGE

TWO soldiers were lightly wounded in a Hizbullah attack on IDF troops in the Beaufort Castle area in the eastern sector of the security zone yesterday morning.

The army spokesman said IDF troops on operational duties in the area came under fire from mortars and light weapons during the course of which one soldier was lightly hurt and another very lightly wounded.

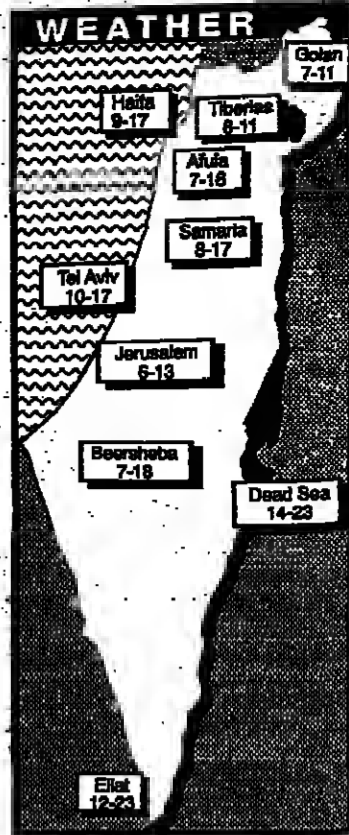
The wounded soldiers were treated in the field before being evacuated to Safed's Rebecca Sieff hospital, where they were both reported to be in satisfactory condition.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the operation saying, in a statement, that its Islamic Resistance fighters had attacked a tank-led patrol near the Beaufort Castle and also shelled an IDF position in the same area. IDF gunners blasted suspected Hizbullah positions and infiltration trails north of the zone in response to the attack.

Meanwhile, news agencies reported yesterday that a Lebanese man who reportedly worked for Israel's intelligence services had himself been snatched from the security zone by Lebanese agents aided by two defectors from the ranks of the South Lebanese Army security apparatus.

The reports were based on a story in the *As-Safir* Lebanese daily newspaper which quoted security sources as saying that Ahmed Hallak had been spirited out of the zone in the boot of a car after his whiskey had been drugged.

Hallak was accused of the Beirut car bomb blast in December 1994 in which three people were killed, including Fuad Moughniyyeh, brother of a leading Hizbullah activist.



Forecast: Partly cloudy. Local rain in north and center.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Conditions
Amsterdam	28	41	cloudy
Berlin	28	41	clear
Bombay	28	41	clear
Chicago	28	41	clear
Copenhagen	28	41	clear
Frankfurt	28	41	cloudy
Geneva	28	41	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	41	cloudy
London	28	41	cloudy
Los Angeles	28	41	cloudy
Madrid	28	41	cloudy
Manila	28	41	cloudy
Paris	28	41	cloudy
Rome	28	41	cloudy
Stockholm	28	41	cloudy
Tokyo	28	41	cloudy
Washington	28	41	cloudy
Yokohama	28	41	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, king of hearts, seven of diamonds and nine of clubs.

Arabist: 'Jews, Moslems on collision course'

GREER FAY CASHMAN

JEW and Moslems are on "a collision course until doomsday" due to cultural and historical differences, according to a professor of Islamic history at the Hebrew University.

As regards Jerusalem, for instance, "It's two great cultures which are in conflict with each other," Prof. Moshe Sharon told delegates to the Third Zionist Christian Congress yesterday. While there is not a single reference to Jerusalem in the Koran, Sharon noted, Jerusalem and other "divinely holy" places such as Mebro and Bethlehem have become holy to the Moslems through the Islamization of history and geography.

Jewish and Christian traditions remained in places conquered by or ceded to the Moslems, and these were subsequently absorbed by them, said Sharon, citing as an example the Dome of the Rock which was not initially built to serve as a mosque, but to commemorate the Temple of Solomon.

But there was a need to connect Jerusalem to the founder of Islam, and this gave birth to the legend of Mohammed's night journey on a winged steed from Mecca to Jerusalem via Mount Sisi, Hebron and Bethlehem. All these sites were resanctified Islamically.

Another quake rocks Eilat

DAVID RUDGE

ANOTHER strong earthquake rocked Eilat yesterday morning for the second time in less than a week. It was felt in the Tel Aviv region and as far north as Safed.

Experts said the quake, at 9:15, was slightly stronger than the one in the same area last Wednesday and was even closer this time to the southern coastal resort.

No injuries or damage were reported to Eilat, although the tremor shook hotels and homes and especially the upper floors of high rise buildings. The quake was also felt in Cairo, and in parts of Sinai. Dr. Gady Shamir, from the Seismology Division of the Geophysical Institute, said the quake measured 5.5 on the Richter scale, compared to 5.4 last Wednesday.

State told to explain why Ethiopian activist is sitting on Navon panel

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday gave the state 14 days to explain why Addisu Messala, who heads the United Ethiopian Immigrants Association, should be allowed to sit on the Navon Commission investigating the destruction of Ethiopian blood donations.

Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Eliahu Mazza and Ya'acov Kedmi also ordered the state to explain why Prime Minister Shimon Peres appointed the commission, given that blood donations fall into Health Minister Ephraim Seoh's area of authority.

The show-cause orders were issued in response to a petition by Dr. Amos Ben-David, Mago David Adom's director of blood services. Ben-David's lawyer, Uzi Azmon, argued that Messala - who has repeatedly been quoted by the press as saying he holds Ben-David responsible for the affair and is determined to get him fired - has no business on a committee whose job is to carry out an impartial investigation into who was responsible.

Messala confirmed to the court that he had made such statements, but insisted that he would listen with an open mind to any evidence to the contrary. The state added that Messala was only one of seven members, and that his status as head of his organization made him a logical choice for the commission.

Azmon also argued that only Such had the authority to appoint such a commission, since blood donations fall into his bailiwick. The state, in response, argued that this was not a narrow health issue, but a subject with many broad public implications, and therefore an appropriate matter for prime ministerial involvement. However, the court issued show-cause orders on both issues.

The court rejected Ben-David's other two requests, however: that the commission be replaced with a state commission of inquiry, and that Such be ordered to stop threatening MDA with funding cuts if it does not suspend Ben-David. The latter charge is already being heard by a labor court.

Panel on Yemenite children to rule soon on genetic profiling

EVELYN GORDON

THE commission of inquiry into the missing Yemenite children will decide shortly whether to order genetic profiles made of all parents who claim their children were stolen, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

The court was hearing a petition demanding that genetic profiles be taken of both the parents and the skeletons which allegedly belong to the missing children, and then compared.

Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Eliahu Mazza and Ya'acov Kedmi rejected the petition, saying the petitioners had no business going to court before the

commission had decided on the issue. However, the state announced that the commission would decide shortly on whether to make genetic profiles of the parents in any case, since many of them are elderly, and may not have much time. However, the state added, a decision on whether to make such profiles of the skeletons will take longer to reach. The petition was filed by Yigal Yosef, head of the Public Committee for Finding the Missing Yemenite Children, and MKs Avigdor Kshalevi (Labor), Aryeh Gamil (Shas) and Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud).

Early elections bill passes on 2nd and 3rd reading

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset yesterday passed the bill calling for early elections to be held May 29 on second and third readings.

Discussions on a series of bills on technical electoral decisions

were held shortly after the Knesset plenum finished its discussion on Sunday's attacks in Jerusalem and Ashkelon. Voting on some of

the bills was postponed because of the absence of MKs from the Knesset, as some of the clauses require a majority of 61 MKs to pass, and there was less than that number of MKs in the House.

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